## REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct several relatively simply typographical errors and to correctly refer to the Sugasawa, T. et al., "J. Biol. Chem., 272, 21244-21252 (1997)" reference that is cited throughout the specification. The specification is also amended to refer to sequences by SEQ ID NOs, and cross-reference the priority documents.

No new matter is inserted into the application via this amendment. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kristi L. Rupert (Reg. No. 45,702) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Ву

JWB/KLR:trb 0020-5213P John/W. Bailey, #32,881

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000